

Message

From: Watkins, Jessica@Waterboards [Jessica.Watkins@Waterboards.ca.gov]
Sent: 9/5/2018 8:34:09 PM
To: Jackson, Tyree A [TAJackson@oaklandca.gov]
CC: Mach, Jimmy [JMach@oaklandnet.com]; Mary Boyd [mary.boyd@waterboards.ca.gov]; Schlipf, Robert@Waterboards [Robert.Schlipf@waterboards.ca.gov]; Chee, Michael@Waterboards [Michael.Chee@waterboards.ca.gov]; Johnson, Bill@Waterboards [Bill.Johnson@waterboards.ca.gov]; Mumley, Thomas@Waterboards [Thomas.Mumley@waterboards.ca.gov]; Husby, Peter [Husby.Peter@epa.gov]; Smith, DavidW [Smith.DavidW@epa.gov]; Feger, Naomi@Waterboards [Naomi.Feger@waterboards.ca.gov]; Valiela, Luisa [Valiela.Luisa@epa.gov]; Lincoff, Andy [Lincoff.Andy@epa.gov]; WILLIAMS, CYNTHIA [Williams.Cynthia@epa.gov]; James, Duane [James.Duane@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Coliform/e.coli levels in Lake Merritt

Hi Tyree,

I received your voicemail earlier today with an update that the City is actively investigating this matter but has not yet found any potential wastewater sources, and that City staff is reaching out to EPA to get more information. We appreciate your efforts and look forward to an update.

Best regards,
Jessica

From: Watkins, Jessica@Waterboards
Sent: Friday, August 31, 2018 12:48 PM
To: 'Jackson, Tyree A' <TAJackson@oaklandca.gov>
Cc: Mach, Jimmy <JMach@oaklandnet.com>; Boyd, Mary@Waterboards <mary.boyd@waterboards.ca.gov>; Schlipf, Robert@Waterboards <robert.schlipf@waterboards.ca.gov>; Chee, Michael@Waterboards <michael.chee@waterboards.ca.gov>; Johnson, Bill@Waterboards <bill.johnson@waterboards.ca.gov>; Mumley, Thomas@Waterboards <thomas.mumley@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'husby.peter@epa.gov' <husby.peter@epa.gov>; David W. Smith <smith.davidw@epa.gov>; Feger, Naomi@Waterboards <naomi.feger@waterboards.ca.gov>; Valiela, Luisa <Valiela.Luisa@epa.gov>; 'lincoff.andy@epa.gov' <lincoff.andy@epa.gov>; 'williams.cynthia@epa.gov' <williams.cynthia@epa.gov>; 'james.duane@epa.gov' <james.duane@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Coliform/e.coli levels in Lake Merritt

Hi Tyree,

We received information from U.S. EPA Region 9 that significantly elevated bacteria concentrations were measured in Lake Merritt on August 16, 23, and 30. Please investigate whether there is an ongoing SSO, cross-connection, or other source that could be impacting Lake Merritt and provide us with an update by next Tuesday, September 2. Please contact Peter Husby if you have questions about the attached analytical data and I'm around this afternoon if you have any other questions.

Thanks!
Jessica Watkins, P.E.
Water Resource Control Engineer
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone (510) 622-2349
Fax (510) 622-2460

From: Husby, Peter [<mailto:Husby.Peter@epa.gov>]
Sent: Friday, August 31, 2018 11:54 AM
To: David W. Smith <smith.davidw@epa.gov>; Mumley, Thomas@Waterboards
<Thomas.Mumley@waterboards.ca.gov>; naomi.feger@waterboards.ca.gov
Cc: Valiela, Luisa <Valiela.Luisa@epa.gov>; Lincoff, Andy <Lincoff.Andy@epa.gov>; WILLIAMS, CYNTHIA
<Williams.Cynthia@epa.gov>; James, Duane <James.Duane@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Coliform/e.coli levels in Lake Merritt

Hello all,

The USEPA Region 9 Laboratory has been providing analytical support (principally coliform/e.coli analyses) to volunteer monitoring organizations in the east bay for many years. Volunteer organizations collect ambient creek and lake samples and bring those samples to the lab in Richmond for analysis. Typically, the groups collect weekly samples for 5 weeks to permit calculation of geometric means to assess their waters in terms of a standard.

We are currently analyzing samples from Lake Merritt, collected by a volunteer group. The levels of indicator organisms have been high, but the most recent samples, collected yesterday, are particularly high. In the past, E. coli levels over 100,000/100 mL in ambient East Bay samples have been found to be caused by active sewer overflows or breaks. The volunteer groups have often contacted City Public Works Departments which have addressed the problems. In light of the high numbers, we felt we should let you all know about the results, as soon as possible, so you would be aware of the situation.

I am attaching the reports of the last three weeks here, as well as a map of the sample locations. If you have any questions please contact me.

Peter Husby
Laboratory Director
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Richmond, CA 94804
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